# Central Okanagan Bursary and Scholarship Society Information 2025-26

# CENTRAL OKANAGAN BURSARY AND SCHOLARSHIP SOCIETY

- Unique to the Central Okanagan
- One application allows students to apply to hundreds of awards
- There are 2 types of awards
  - No criteria awards which are open to all students
  - 2. Specific criteria awards which have been established by donors

# CENTRAL OKANAGAN BURSARY AND SCHOLARSHIP SOCIETY

## Stats from last grad year (2025):

- 588 total awards
- Total value of awards \$587,275
- 647 Student Applications

# HAVE SOMEONE THAT WANTS TO DONATE?

- Contact COBSS to create their own award (<u>cobss@shaw.ca</u>), can create any criteria
- Contact COBSS to donate any amount
- Drop off bottles at Columbia bottle depot drop-off – use COBSS phone number (250) 861- 4980

## **ELIGIBILITY**

- Be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or refugee living within the boundaries of Central Okanagan Public Schools.
- 2. Must be applying/have applied and plan to attend <u>FULL</u> <u>TIME</u> at an accredited post-secondary institution in September of graduation year.
- 3. Obtain a minimum of 60% average in all grade 11 and 12 courses.
- 4. Registered in a minimum of six (6) courses during grade 12 year, and will complete a minimum of six (6) courses by June 30th not including the grade 12 Capstone Careers course (these 6 can include online, dual credit, and external courses).
- 5. Have potential to graduate for the first time this June.
- 6. Attending one of the member schools of COBSS as their home school during graduation year.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

**EXCEPTION for a few awards:** In order to be eligible for any award beginning with a **6**, you MUST attend a provincially authorized post-secondary institution in the province of British Columbia, as recognized by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training, or equivalent in BC.

•
ACT/UCT Kelowna West Council #1003 Bursary
CFUW - Kelowna Bursary (from BC Gaming funds)
CFUW - UBCO Bursary (from BC Gaming funds)
Kiwanis Club Of Kelowna-Summit Award
Lions Club - Okanagan Mission Bursary
Lions Club - Lake Country/Winfield Bursary
Lions Club - Lake Country/Winfield Randy Rose Memorial Bursary
Lions Club - Peachland Award
Lions Club - Westbank Award
Stew Tuningley Memorial - Lions Westbank Bursary
Lions Club - Westbank Award - OC
Rotary Club - Kelowna/Downtown Bursary

Click here to see what institutions are accepted for these awards: <a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/post-secondary-education/find-a-program-or-institution/find-an-institution">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/post-secondary-education/find-a-program-or-institution/find-an-institution</a>

# SELECTION PROCESS

- Applications are submitted <u>online</u>.
- Applications are strictly confidential.
- Applications are read only by school counsellors, donors and members of the COBSS selection committee consisting of representatives from each of the member schools.



School counsellors are not part of the selection process.

# SELECTION IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING THREE AREAS:

1. FINANCIAL NEED — based on line 15000 of tax return and any special circumstances

2. ACADEMIC ABILITY – the average of student's Grade 11 and Grade 12 marks

3. ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP – such as involvement in school and community

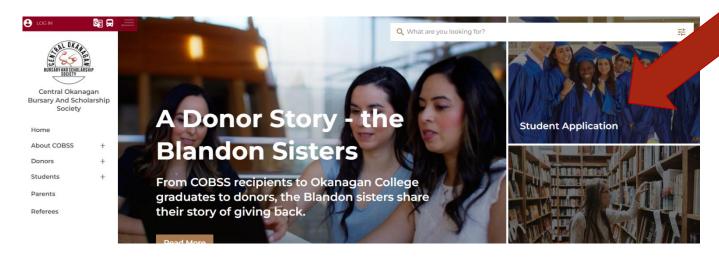
### TYPES OF AWARDS

**BURSARY** – primarily based on financial need

SCHOLARSHIP – based on excellence; excellence can be in a variety of areas academic, fine arts, applied skills, sports, community involvement, etc.

**AWARD** – based on donor discretion

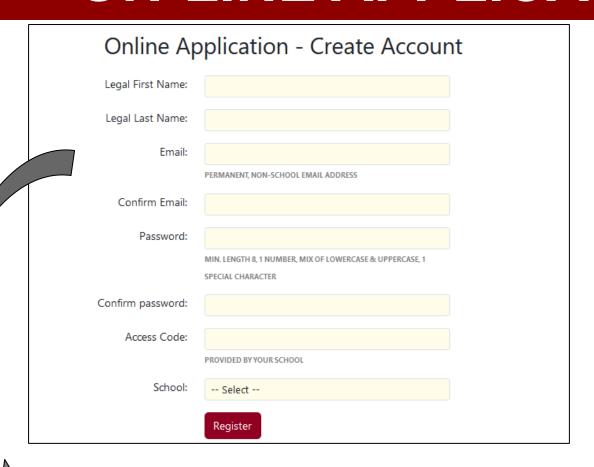
 The on-line application is available at: cobss.sd23.bc.ca – and follow link:



- If you are having difficulties, please see your school counsellor.
- The on-line application opens on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>.

COBSS	Central Okanag	an Bursa	ary And Schola	rship Society	
		Email: Password:	nline Applicat  Remember me?  Log in  tudents Register Here	ions - Sign In  Forgot Password	

Click on New Students Register Here



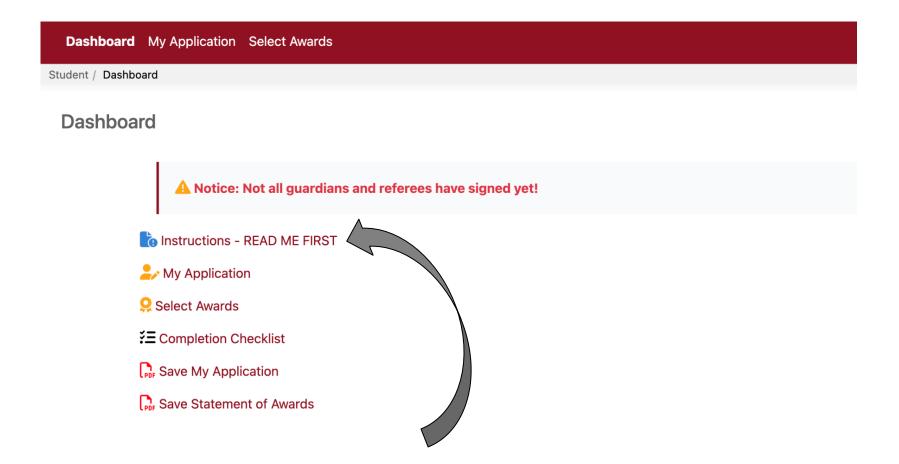
Be sure to use your own **NON SCHOOL** email address.

See next slide for your school's access code.

Access Code:

Insert your school's Access Code Here

## INSTRUCTIONS



### Click on **Instructions** and follow carefully.

If you have any questions, please see your school counsellor.

There are **two main components** to the COBSS application package:

- My Application section (largest part of application)
- 2. Select Awards section

**Dashboard** My Application Select Awards

Student / Dashboard

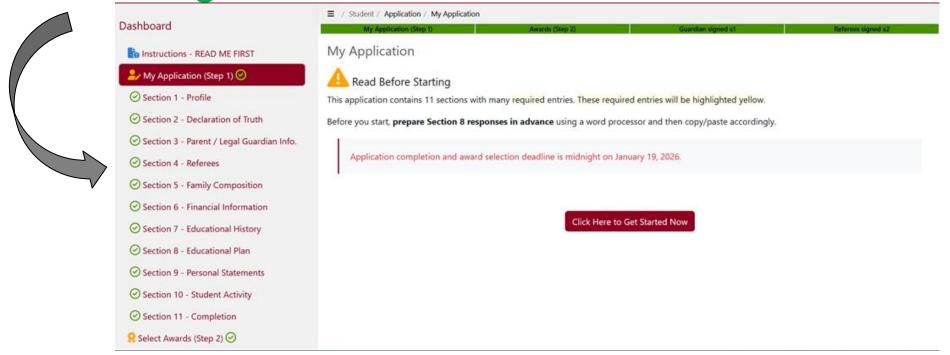
#### **Dashboard**



Click on My Application to begin the application process.

There are ten sections AND the Application Completion step to be completed.

When a section is completed, the check mark will be **green AND** the status bar at the top will turn **green**.



Dashboard My Application Select Awards					
	■ / Student / Application / Profile				
Dashboard	My Application (Step 1)	Awards (Step 2)	(		
Instructions - READ ME FIRST	Profile				
♣ My Application (Step 1)	Legal First Name:				
Section 1 - Profile	Legal Last Name:				
Section 2 - Declaration of Truth					
O Section 3 - Parent / Legal Guardian Info.	Preferred First Name:				
Section 4 - Referees	Preferred Last Name:				
Section 5 - Family Composition	PLEASE DO NOT COMPLETE IF THE SAME AS LEGAL LAST, L	LEGAL FIRST.			

Fill in the application form carefully and as accurately as possible <u>after reading all of the</u> instructions.

Students should **Save & Continue** as you go and may go back and edit as often as you wish until the site closes at **11:59 pm** on **Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>**.

- Parent/Guardian digital signature is required. It is CRUCIAL that you enter the correct email address for your parent/guardian.
- As soon as you press save an email will be sent to your guardian for a digital signature. Although we do require contact information for all parents/guardians we only require one digital parent/guardian signature.
- Parents/Guardians Digital Signature Instructions are on our website.
- Be sure to check your application to confirm parent/guardian digital signature is completed prior to application close date.

- Use the drop down menus where given
- Complete paragraph answers in the space provided.
- Be aware that the secure site will time out. (after 480 mins)
   \*\* Remember to click "Save & Continue" before moving on

**TIP:** Compose paragraphs in a Word Document, and then cut and paste into COBSS application.

- Space is limited so write concisely as there are a maximum number of characters available.
- Please check spelling, grammar and punctuation.

One **critical** component of the application is the paragraph answers under **Student Personal Statements**.

There are 3 questions you will need to answer in this section.

- This is where your personality shows through and helps the committee with its decision.
- BE CREATIVE, HONEST and CONCISE and remember to proofread your answers.
- With your words, you are trying to create a vision in the donor's mind of who you are, what your goals and dreams are and why you deserve to be selected for the award.

#### **QUESTION 1:**

What are your educational/career plans? Describe the experiences that have contributed to these plans.

- Try to be original and creative.
- Do not start with "My name is\_\_\_\_ and I am in grade 12 at \_\_\_\_."

#### **QUESTION 2:**

For the selection committee, describe the three qualities that best demonstrate your character. Use examples from your life to illustrate these qualities.

- Try to get across who you are and what you are about in words.
- You want to stand out in the sea of applications.

#### **QUESTION 3:**

Describe your family (include custodial and non-custodial parent information). Explain any financial and non-financial struggles that you may have encountered.

- Remember that financial need is one of the areas that selection is based on for COBSS awards.
- This is a snapshot of your current family and financial situation.

Another important part of the application is Your Activity Details.

Students will include their activities from grades 10, 11 & 12 in the following three areas:

- 1. Community & School Based Involvement & Achievements
- 2. Volunteer Experience
- 3. Paid Work Experience

Under each activity heading, list the **3 MOST SIGNIFICANT** activities in which you have been involved.

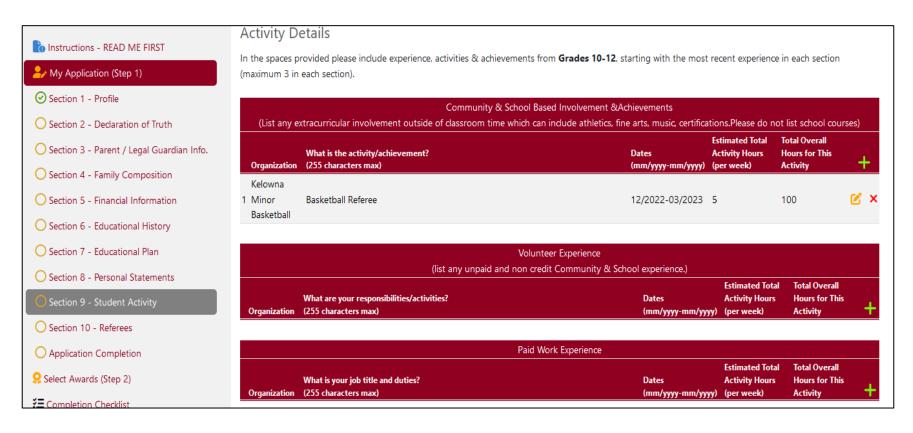
For each activity, provide:

- 1. Organization
- 2. Your activities/responsibilities/duties
- 3. Dates (mm/yyyy-mm/yyyy)
- 4. Estimated total activity hours (per week)
- 5. Total overall hours

#### TIP:

Remember to include anticipated hours until the end of June.

Eg. of Community & School Based Involvement & Achievement: (use the green + button to add details to each section)



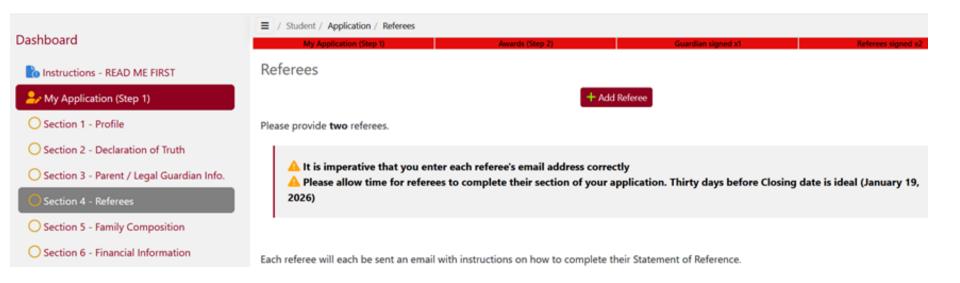
### After completing Your Activity Details:

- Choose one activity or achievement you have listed that you are most proud of
- Explain what you have learned from it

- You have 1000 characters to answer this question.
- Remember that award selection is based on active citizenship so this is a good place to expand on your involvement and include reflective learning.

## STATEMENT OF REFERENCE

- Consider community people, employers, and teachers as potential referees. (One teacher and one community reference is recommended.)
- Choose referees carefully and contact them in advance for permission.



## STATEMENT OF REFERENCE

It is CRUCIAL that you enter the CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS!

An <u>email is sent</u> from <u>noreply@sd23.bc.ca</u> to the referee <u>as soon as you click save</u>, so have your references check spam / junk / quarantined messages to find the email.

Referee instructions and a Sample Reference are available on the COBSS website.

Be sure to check your application to confirm two reference digital signatures are completed prior to the close date. Once a referee starts the process, you will be unable to make a reference change.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE YOUR APPLICATION
IS COMPLETE WITH ALL
DIGITAL SIGNATURES & REFERENCES!

- Student digital signature is required to confirm applicant meets <u>all</u> eligibility requirements and all information is accurate.
- Parent or guardian digital signature is required to confirm that financial information is accurate.
  - Parents/Guardians Digital Signature Instructions are on our website.

If you wish to print a copy for your own records, choose **Save My Application** and print it.



My Application

Select Awards

**E** Completion Checklist

Save My Application

Save Statement of Awards

## SELECT AWARDS

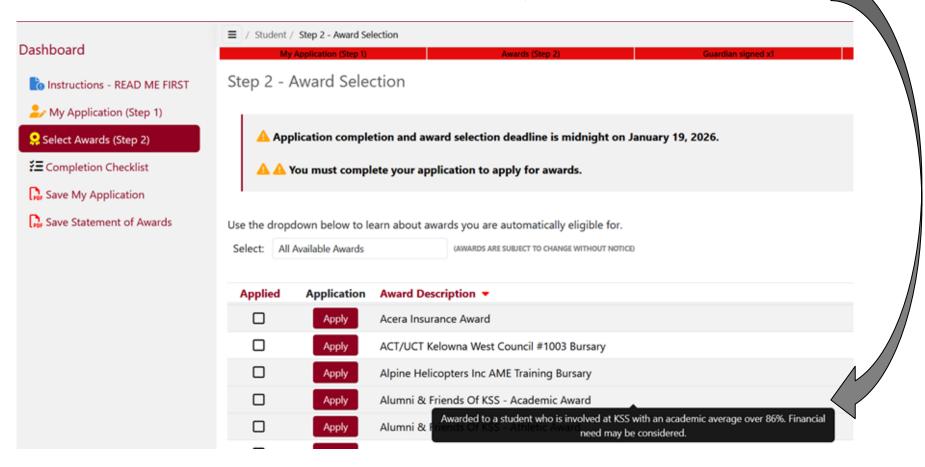


This step is mandatory to complete

Click on **Select Awards** to view all awards available to your school. Please note that awards are subject to change.

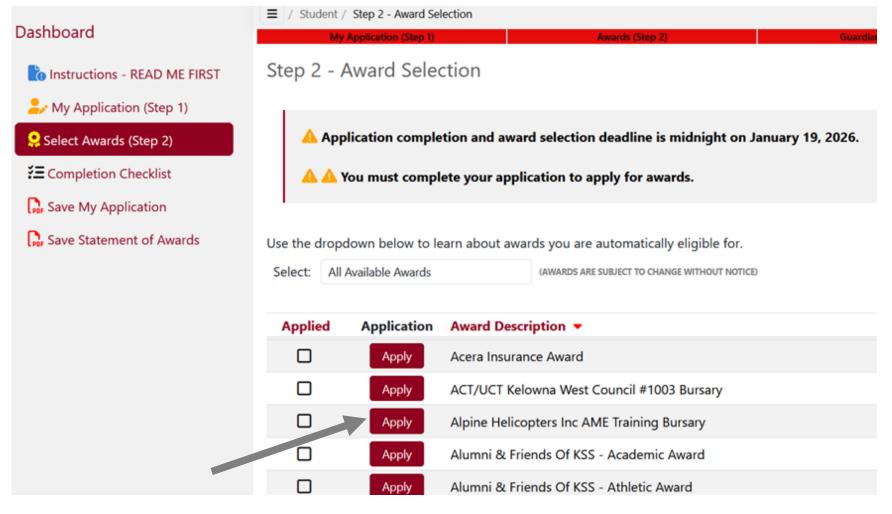
## **SELECT AWARDS**

To view criteria for each award, hover over title.



## SELECT AWARDS

## Click on **APPLY** if eligible for award.



## SELECT AWARDS

#### Click on APPLY FOR THIS AWARD

#### Apply for

#### " ACT/UCT Kelowna West Council #1003 Bursary "

Criteria:

Preference given to a student who is a dependent of a member in good standing of ACT/UCT Kelowna Council 1003. An explanation of your academic and future goals is required. In order to be eligible for this award, you MUST attend a provincially authorized post-secondary institution in the province of British Columbia, as recognized by the Ministry of Advance Education, Skills & Training, or equivalent in BC.

Eligibile Schools List:

Aberdeen Hall Preparatory School

Anse-au-sable

Central Programs School

ESchool23

Flex Academy

George Elliot Secondary

Heritage Christian Online School

Immaculata Regional High School

Kelowna Christian School

Kelowna Secondary School

Mount Boucherie Secondary

Okanagan Christian School

Okanagan Mission Secondary

Rutland Senior Secondary

☐ APPLY FOR THIS AWARD

## SELECT AWARDS

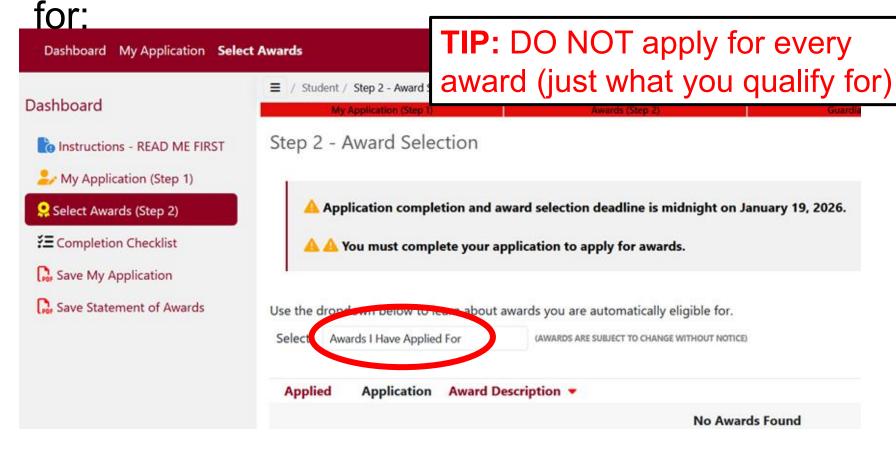
If prompted, fill in Applicant Responses to explain eligibility and additional information requested by the donor.

A Save Award Application Now button is at the bottom of each screen to save information.

	✓ APPLY FOR THIS AWARD ENSURE ALL APPLICANT RESPONSES ARE COMPLETED	
Name of member of ACT/UCT.:		la.
	100 available characters	
Relationship to member.:		
	100 available characters	
		Save Award Application Now Cancel

## AWARDS APPLIED FOR

When all eligible awards are selected, use the drop down menu to view awards applied



## **MY APPLICATION**

If you wish to print a copy for your own records, choose **Save Statement of Awards** and print it.

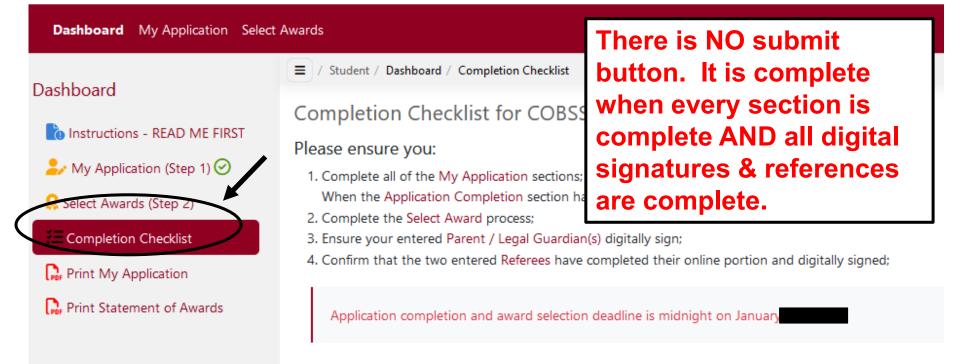


- My Application
- Select Awards
- **₹** Completion Checklist
- Save My Application
- Save Statement of Awards

## **COMPLETION CHECKLIST**

When you have completed Steps 1 & 2, click on Completion Checklist to review

COBSS Central Okanagan Bursary And Scholarship Society



# Applications must be completed on time. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Prior to the due date, you must log back in to your application to confirm that:

√ your parent/guardian has completed their digital signature

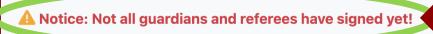
#### **AND**

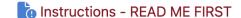
your references have completed their online documents.

**Transcript** – will be added by your school counsellor

At least one week prior to the deadline, an email reminder will be sent out for any "Incomplete Applications".

# Applications must be completed on time. NO EXCEPTIONS.







Select Awards

₹≡ Completion Checklist

Save My Application

Save Statement of Awards

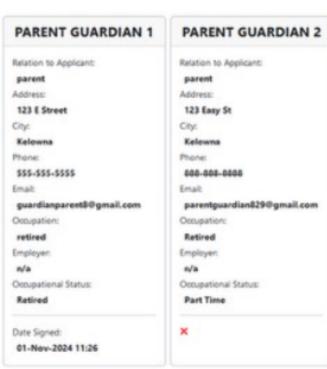
Confirm parent/guardian signature & references are complete on your application Dashboard.

Check for the **ALERT** that tells you signatures are missing!

#### **HOW TO CHECK WHAT IS MISSING?**

- Go to My Application
- Go to Section 3
   (Parent/Guardian Signature)

   \*\*Only 1 signature needed
- ✓ If complete, a DATE OF COMPLETION is displayed.
- ★ If no DATE COMPLETION → follow up with your people to ensure they complete their part.



#### **HOW TO CHECK WHAT IS MISSING?**

- Go to My Application
- Go to Section 10 (Referees)



- ✓ If complete, a DATE OF COMPLETION is displayed.
- ★ If no DATE COMPLETION → follow up with your people to ensure they complete their part.

KEEP CHECKING YOUR DASHBOARD to VERIFY COMPLETION!!

### **DUE DATE**

Your COBSS online application package will be submitted automatically on:

Mon. Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 pm

Plan your time accordingly

You <u>cannot</u> make changes or print after this time.

### PLEASE REMEMBER

If you are a COBSS award recipient, please:

- Write an immediate thank you note to your donor.
- A follow up thank you note in the early fall is always a kind gesture.

#### TIP:

 Keep a binder of all your awards so that you can track them accurately and use them before they expire.

#### **Question:**

When should I begin my COBSS application?

#### **Answer:**

It is recommended to begin the application as soon as possible. It is a lengthy process which takes a number of separate sittings to complete. It cannot be completed in one sitting.

#### **Question:**

When will I know if I have received a COBSS award?

#### **Answer:**

Awards are typically presented to individual student recipients at either the school graduation ceremonies or a separate awards night. Check with your school.

#### **Question:**

Will my COBSS award expire?

#### **Answer:**

Yes, COBSS awards presented this year are valid until November 1<sup>st</sup> of your graduation year.

#### **Question:**

Can I take a year off for an exchange, a gap year, missionary work, etc. and still use my COBSS award?

#### **Answer:**

No, COBSS awards given out this year are valid until November 1<sup>st</sup> of your graduation year.

#### **Question:**

How do I know if the school I plan to attend is accredited as required for my COBSS eligibility?

#### **Answer:**

On the COBSS website is this link to search accredited institutions.



#### **Question:**

What do I do with a COBSS award?

#### Answer:

A Certificate of Award is issued to you when you receive the award at graduation. Included is a letter outlining how to claim your award. Please read those documents carefully.

TIP: Student # is your Post-Secondary

Institution number

## AWARD RECIPIENTS

If your circumstances change after you have received a COBSS award and you are no longer able to use the award before the November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, please contact COBSS at **cobss@shaw.ca** as soon as possible.

The award money can then be given to an alternate recipient.

### AWARD RECIPIENTS

If you have any questions regarding an award that you have received, please address all inquiries to COBSS directly at cobss@shaw.ca and not the award donor.

# If you need help or further information, please check back in the COBSS instructions.

Your school counsellor can help if you get stuck.

Remember, the site closes Mon. Jan 19/25 @ 11:59pm

## !!! IMPORTANT !!!

# Students are responsible to ensure the following:

ENTIRE application is completed & signed parent digital signature completed reference #1 form completed reference #2 form completed

Without these, your application is INCOMPLETE and will not be considered.

## Please Remember ...

Your COBSS online application package will be submitted automatically on:

Monday, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm Plan your time accordingly.

You <u>CANNOT</u> make changes or print after this time.